

O R 131530Z NOV 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0714  
CIA WASHINGTON DC  
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE  
DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE  
DIRJIATF SOUTH J2  
AMEMBASSY LIMA ROUTINE  
DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ ROUTINE  
AMEMBASSY KABUL ROUTINE  
CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL ROUTINE  
DEPT OF STATE AIR WING PATRICK AFB FL  
INFO ONDCP WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE

UNCLASSIFIED BOGOTA 003604

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INL/LP  
DEPT FOR INL/R  
DEPT FOR WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: N/A  
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [SENV](#) [KCRM](#) [PTER](#) [CO](#)  
SUBJECT: COLOMBIA TOTAL COCA ERADICATION IS DOWN IN 2009

REF: BOGOTA 673  
BOGOTA 2334  
BOGOTA 2786  
BOGOTA 1595

Correction Reason: CORRECTED COPY: ADDEE ADDED

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: Citing record coca eradication in 2008, the USG and United Nations reported significant declines in Colombian cocaine produc  
[1](#)2008. Embassy Bogota is encouraging the GOC to reduce its focus on total hectares eradicated in favor of an eradication strategy aligned with

Total Eradication Down in 2009  
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[1](#)2. (SBU) Total coca eradication in 2009 is projected to be approximately 157,000 hectares, 32 percent less than the 2008 eradication total of

[1](#)3. (SBU) Citing record coca eradication in 2008, the USG and United Nations reported significant declines in Colombian cocaine production pote  
Funding Shortfall Nearly Cancels Manual Eradication  
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[1](#)4. (SBU) Phase IV of the 2009 manual eradication campaign, scheduled to begin in mid-October, was delayed until November 10 due to funding cor

[1](#)5. (SBU) An estimated 130 to 140 mobile eradication groups (GMEs – 31 civilian eradicators per GME) will work under police and army protection  
NAS Support to Manual Eradication  
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[1](#)6. (SBU) NAS Bogota assistance for manual eradication in 2009 has included air lift and material support. Through October, NAS-supported DIRAN  
FARC Attacks Against Manual Eradication up in 2009  
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[1](#)7. (SBU) As of November 9, the GOC has reported a total of 40 fatalities during manual eradication operations in 2009 -- including 25 security

[1](#)8. (SBU) Sniper fire, ambushes, landmines, command-detonated IEDs, and mortar and cylinder bomb attacks against manual eradication groups are

[1](#)9. (SBU) The rise in attacks on manual eradication groups is attributed to an increase in manual eradication operations in dangerous Revolutic  
Manual Eradication: Chasing Hectares  
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[1](#)10. (SBU) The manual eradication annual hectare goal ensures that GOC eradication planners send GMEs to areas with the highest concentration c

[1](#)11. (SBU) The GOC's coca eradication strategy, instead of focusing on total hectares eradicated, should seek to attack replanting and sharply  
COMMENT  
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[1](#)12. (SBU) Reduced funding for coca eradication programs is largely the root of the drop in coca eradication in 2009. While aerial eradication

BROWNFIELD